



The U.S. Embassy's Information Resource Center is pleased to offer you an "Issue-in-Focus" on Media, Communications and Information Technology.

The full text of the document can be retrieved at the link(s) listed below. If you have problems retrieving the article, or would like to comment on our services, please call 02-205-4640 or write to irc@state.gov. Current and back issues of "Issue-in-Focus" on Media, Communications and Information Technology are also available in our homepage at <http://bangkok.usembassy.gov/services/irc/cis/media-communications-and-information-technology.html>.

WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY 2010

MAY 3, 2010

"This World Press Freedom Day, whose theme is Freedom of Information, offers us an occasion to remember the importance of our right to know. Freedom of Information is the principle that organisations and governments have a duty to share or provide ready access to information they hold, to anyone who wants it, based on the public's right to be informed."

-- [Message from UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova, May 3, 2010](#)

[World Press Freedom Day](#) is celebrated across the globe every May 3rd and represents an opportunity to commemorate the fundamental principles of press freedom and the free flow of information. It also provides an opportunity to pay solemn tribute to journalists who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

The United States joins journalists, citizens, and governments around the globe in celebrating World Press Freedom Day 2010. This important day underscores the importance of freedom of information as an integral part of freedom of expression and its contribution to democratic governance. It fosters reflection and exchange of ideas on freedom of information to advance empowerment, transparency, accountability and the fight against corruption. World Press Freedom Day also affords a chance for citizens around the globe to explore and address the obstacles that impede freedom of the press in today's digitalized world.

SPECIAL STATEMENTS FROM THE UNITED STATES

[Statement by President Barack Obama on World Press Freedom Day, May 3, 2010](#)

[Statement by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton on World Press Freedom Day, May 3, 2010](#)

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION: THE RIGHT TO KNOW

[Freedom of Information as a Tool for Empowerment: Good Institutions, The Public Sphere and Media Literacy](#) (April 2010) - This paper focuses on the importance of access to information and the ability to share information for empowerment, in the current context characterized by the emergence of a new media and communication society that has transformed the social functions of media and communication. It addresses the links between freedom of information and other rights, and highlights the centrality of good institutions, education and an independent and pluralistic media within a human rights-based approach to the topic.



[Freedom of Information: Current Status, Challenges and Implications for News Media](#) (May 2010) - Regardless of a remarkable trend toward adoption of Freedom of Information (FOI) laws worldwide, international experience has shown this does not automatically translate into fulfillment of people's right to information. Among other obstacles, freedom of information is undermined by weak mechanisms for access and enforcement, the bad state of record-keeping and archive management systems and poor monitoring of FOI implementation.

DEFENDING PRESS FREEDOM

[Freedom of the Press](#) (April 2010) - Freedom House's "Freedom of the Press 2010 Survey" identifies the greatest threats to independent media in 196 countries and territories. Released in advance of World Press Freedom Day on May 3, the report shows that global media freedom has declined for the eighth straight year in a row, with significant losses outnumbering gains by a 2-to-1 margin.



[Champions of Press Freedom](#) - Brave men and women risk their lives every day to inform citizens and hold governments accountable. Find out more about these champions of press freedom and share your thoughts.



[World Press Freedom Review](#) (February 2010) - The annual International Press Institute's World Press Freedom Review examines the state of the media around the world, documenting press freedom violations and major media developments. Divided into specific regions, each report provides a comprehensive overview of the year's events.

PRESS FREEDOM IN THE DIGITAL AGE

[Online Journalists Increasingly Risk Censorship, Imprisonment](#) - According to the Center for International Media Assistance (CIMA), for the first time, the number of online journalists in prison almost surpasses the number of jailed traditional print and broadcast journalists. Learn more about this and other threats to media from this initiative of the National Endowment for Democracy, a private, non-profit foundation dedicated to strengthening democratic institutions around the world.

[The Right to Know and Journalism in a Digital Age](#) - Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) have substantially changed the media landscape and information flows, in general. How can the digital and knowledge divide be addressed to ensure that ICTs facilitate freedom of information and its benefits in terms of empowerment, transparency and public accountability?

Don't Miss out!
World Press Freedom Day
Live Webchat

Join the U.S. Department of State in a live webchat with journalist and Columbia Graduate School of Journalism professor Judith Matloff to discuss the struggle for freedom of expression and independent media in countries worldwide.

- **Monday, May 3 at 21:00hrs Thailand time (14:00 GMT) Special Guest:** [Professor Judith Matloff](#), Columbia Graduate School of Journalism

Click [here](#) to participate. No registration is needed. Simply choose "Enter as a Guest," type in your preferred screen name, and join the discussion. Questions and comments are accepted in advance of, and at any time during, the program.

Check out [World Press Freedom Day on our Facebook!](#)

Connect with US!

Follow the U.S. Embassy Bangkok on
 [Facebook](#) |  [Twitter](#)